

Session # I

Spiritual Wholeness

Introduction

- A. We must always remember the context (or basic structure of Christianity) when we attempt to understand spiritual wholeness.
- B. There are four factors (at least) that make up this context.
Christianity is a PERSON -- therefore it is a RELATIONSHIP
Christianity is a REVELATION -- therefore it is an AUTHORITY
Christianity is a REDEMPTION -- therefore it is POWER
Christianity is an EXPERIENCE -- therefore it is a DECISION
- C. All we talk about, and how we interpret the Scripture, must be understood within this context. Illustrations: talking as a FAMILY, or CHURCH.

I. God is a Person -- and Worthy of Being Treated as a Person

Scripture: Isaiah 40:18-31; Jer 10:6-10; John 4:24

A. God is a Person

God is not some idea of divinity or almighty power
God is a person -- The Living God -- Creator -- Sovereign -- Redeemer
God thinks, plans, makes decisions, has emotions, He loves, can be angry, can be hurt, He cares, He has personality, He has character and has the right to be loved, worshipped, honored, respected, recognized, praised, and obeyed.

B. God is a Spirit(ual) Person

He is holy -- righteous in all His ways -- always does what is right.
He is love -- compassionate in all His ways -- always does goodness.
He is truth -- faithful in all His ways -- always does what is best.

C. God is a Spirit(ual) Person Infinitely Great

Illustrated in Creation -- spoke it all into existence.
Illustrated in Providence -- maintains it all and develops His plan.
Illustrated in Redemption -- in love satisfied His perfect justice.
Illustrated in Salvation -- only He can work on inside - spirit.
Illustrated in Judgment -- everyone is accountable only to God.

II. God must be Treated as a Spirit(ual) Person of Infinite Greatness.

- A. Great tragedy to not treat God as the Person He really is.**
- B. We often fail to recognize His presence, His rights, His goodness, His authority, His plan, His power --**
- C. Often deny Him love, attention, worship, praise, thanksgiving.**
- D. Often choose to be covetous, arrogant, proud, self-seeking.**
- E. Often find ourselves wanting to USE GOD to get our own way, or some possession, or to solve OUR PROBLEMS.**
- F. We must thoroughly repent, apologize to God, and ask Him to convict us and change us so we will recognize WHO He is and love Him as we should.**
- G. OUR NEGLECT OF GOD IS THE MAJOR REASON WHY WE DO NOT HAVE SPIRITUAL WHOLENESS.**

Heavenly Father, I apologize to You for my terrible sin of neglecting You -- and trying to use You to satisfy my sinful and self-centered desires. I confess before You that I have not given You the love You deserve -- while at the same time -- complaining that You did not love me. I confess before You that I have not given to You the loving obedience and sacrificial service that You deserve -- while at the same time -- I have been complaining that You have not been taking care of me the way I thought I deserved.

I confess before You and apologize for being so selfish and self-centered. I confess that I am a proud and self-righteous person. I confess before You that in many ways I have given way to pretense, have been a role player, and have been a hypocrite.

I confess before You and apologize for believing error about You. I have often questioned Your love, Your goodness, and Your wisdom and ability to help me. In believing these lies I have given way and cooperated with Your enemies who suggested these lies to me. I ask You to come and break this bondage in my life. I humbly acknowledge before You that only You can rescue me. I surrender myself totally to You and invite You to come into all the areas of my life. In the name of the Lord Jesus, Amen.

Victor Matthews